

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AREAS

Bellingham Public Schools shall review the geographic attendance areas designated for each school in the district as needed. As population and enrollment shifts within the district, changes in attendance areas or transfer of students may become necessary. By mid-May of each school year, the next year's estimated enrollment should be forecast for each attendance area.

Students shall attend the school designated for their respective residential areas unless individual requests for transfers have been approved according to policy and procedure.

In those cases where estimated enrollments substantially exceed class size guidelines, student transfers shall be proposed to operate an effective and efficient educational program during the following year. The following factors shall be considered when the district develops attendance area boundaries and considers student transfers:

- A. Minimizing disruption of student's established learning programs.
- B. Maintaining established neighborhood grouping.
- C. Keeping siblings in the same elementary school.
- D. Maintaining relationship with a middle school and/or high school attendance area.
- E. Adjusting class loads to available space.
- F. Coordinating transportation routes with attendance areas.

Prior to the implementation of any planned transfer of students, parents of students involved in such planned transfer shall be invited to a meeting at which the planned change shall be explained and discussed. An orientation to the new school shall be arranged for transferred students.

The district reserves the right to base final decisions on the needs of all schools in the district. When fall enrollments in an attendance area substantially exceed class size guidelines, students may be required to attend a school in another attendance area.

Legal Reference: RCW 28A.320.040 Bylaws for board and school government

Approved by:



Greg Baker, Superintendent of Schools

12/20/13

Date

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Revised: